



HEALTHY KIDS NOW! HEALTH CARE FOR WASHINGTON'S KIDS

Frequently Asked Questions **About The New Children's Health Program**

<http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/eligibility/childrenshealth.html>

1. What is the Children's Health Program?

The Children's Health Program is a state-funded health coverage program for non-citizen children under 18 who are below the federal poverty level. The program begins in January 2006.

2. What benefits does it cover?

The Children's Health Program provides full medical coverage similar to children's Medicaid or medical coupons. Services include dental and mental health and medical equipment.

3. Who is eligible?

Non-citizen children from low-income families who are ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status. This program is available regardless of the child's immigration status. Federal poverty level for a family of 1 is \$798 per month. Add \$272 for each additional family member.

4. Is there enough funding to cover all eligible children?

No. Funding for the program is only enough to initially provide health care for a limited number of children. We anticipate more will apply than space is available therefore DSHS will randomly select children from all the applications they receive between December 1 and 16, 2005. Children not selected will be placed on a wait list and assigned a number. Children can still apply after December 16, 2005 but they will not be considered in the first group and will be added to the wait list. They will be offered coverage when it becomes available.

5. When can I apply?

Your child will be in the first group of applicants if you apply anytime between December 1 and December 16, 2005. **Do not apply for the children's health**

program before December 1, 2005. For your child to have the best chance of getting coverage in January 2006, make sure DSHS receives the application by Friday, December 16, 2005. You can still apply after December 16, 2005, but your application will not be considered in the first group (see “Who is eligible?”).

6. How can I apply?

Use the new, separate application called the “Application for Children’s Health Program”. There is a paper version at your DSHS office or you can print it from <http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/Eligibility/ChildrensHealth.html>. It is best to mail it to MEDS at PO BOX 45531, Olympia WA 98599-5531. For questions please call **1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669)**. If you cannot mail the application to MEDS, please take it to your local DSHS office. A regular DSHS application or Healthy Kids Now application is also acceptable but they are longer and may take more time for DSHS to process. If you use a different application, be sure to write at the top of the application “Children’s Medical Application”. If you are applying for food and cash assistance in addition to children’s medical, you should also submit a separate children’s health application to MEDS to be sure it is processed during the initial application period.

7. How will the wait list work?

When space becomes available, children **on the wait list** will be offered coverage in the order of their wait list number (first group). After all children from the first group are offered the Children’s Health Program, those applying after December 16, 2005 will be offered coverage according to their number on the wait list. Children that apply after the initial period will be placed on the wait list in the order that their applications are received. The earliest date that children from the wait list will be offered coverage is July 2006. When children leave the program or more funding become available, children may get off the wait list and get coverage.

8. How often is eligibility reviewed?

Eligibility is reviewed once a year. **It is very important to complete the eligibility review to be able to stay on the program!** If a child’s eligibility review is not completed and turned in, the child will lose medical coverage and have to reapply. If the program continues to have a waitlist, that child who re-applies will not get back on the program but instead will be added to the wait list.

9. What do I need to submit with my application?

It is best to submit proof of income (such as pay stubs or employer statements) with your application. Lawful immigration status is not required. However, if you do have lawful immigration status, please provide a copy of your immigration document.

REMEMBER, while documentation is needed, do not delay submitting your application past the deadline if you do not have it. There are more eligible children than the program can cover, so be sure to get your application in on

time. If your child is randomly selected for the program, you will be notified if any additional documentation is needed.

10. How do I know if my child has been randomly selected?

You will get a notice sometime in the middle of February, 2006 telling you whether or not your child has been selected. Once your application is complete and your child is found eligible, you will receive a medical ID card which covers all your child's care beginning with January 1, 2006.

11. What happens if my child doesn't get selected for the program?

If your child is not randomly selected for the program, and meets all other eligibility, your application will be put on a wait list. In July 2006 the Department will let you know if there is space in the program and your child can be offered coverage.

12. Can children get health care if they are not selected for the Children's Health Program?

Maybe. Even if not selected for the program your child may be eligible for other medical coverage if the child has a serious health condition, medical emergency or is pregnant. Your Children's Health Application will be reviewed to determine if your child qualifies for any medical coverage. Be sure to document the child's medical condition and contact DSHS if you disagree with the letter they send you. You may also apply for the Basic Health Program by calling 1-800-660-9840 for an application.

13. Can children still receive Basic Health if they are selected for the Children's Health Program?

Yes, but most children will not need to use Basic Health once they are receiving medical coupons under the Children's Health Program. Children who become ineligible for the Children's Health Program because their household income rises above the federal poverty level, or because they turn 18, will be able to reapply for Basic Health.

14. What happens if my child is already receiving Alien Emergency Medical coverage?

If your child is receiving Alien Emergency Medical as of December 2005, your child will be automatically enrolled in the Children's Health Program starting January 2006. DSHS will send you a letter along with a Children's Health Program ID card which can be used for all your child's care. The DSHS administration will make sure that the emergency bills are billed to the Alien Emergency Medical Program.